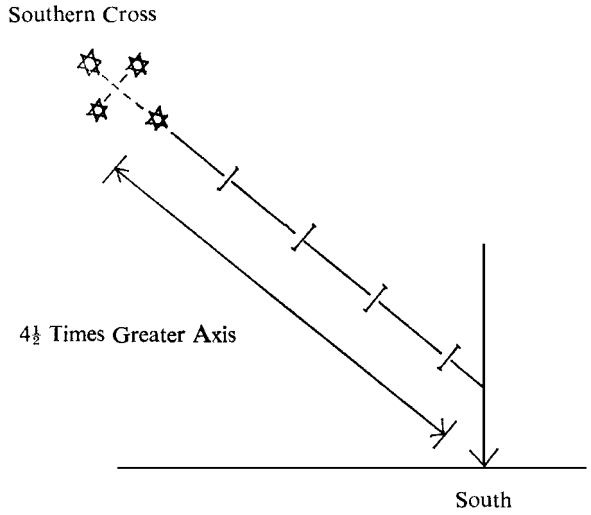
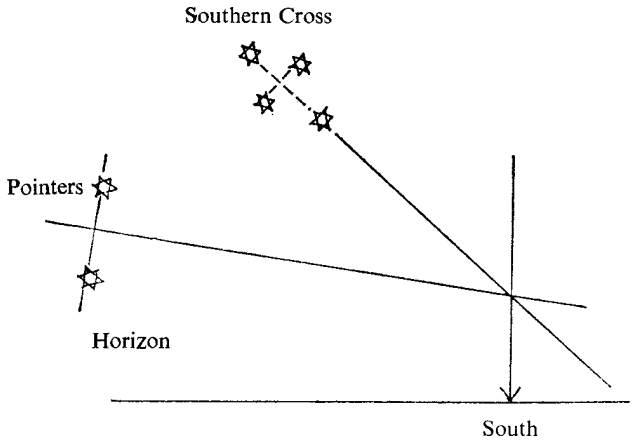
Finding North and South

Southern Cross



- Imagine a line drawn through the main axis of the cross.
- Now extend that line 4½ times the length of the longest axis, extending out from the furthest star.
- A line from this point to the ground will give you the direction of true south.

Southern Cross and Pointers



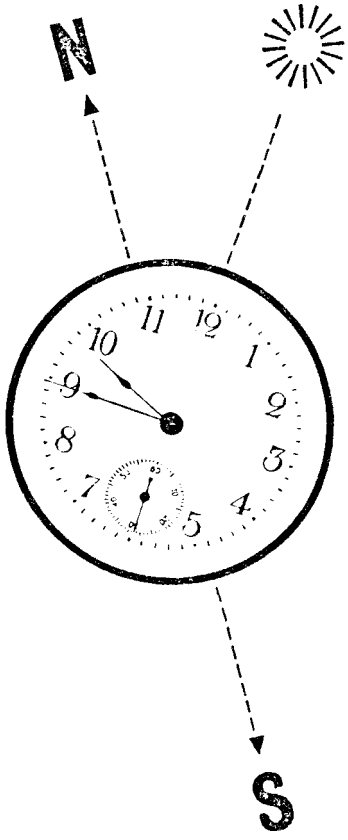
- Extend the line from the main axis of the cross.
- Now take the line bisecting the two pointers and extend it till it intersects with the first line.
- At the intersection point, drop a line directly to the ground to find true south.

(The point you find in the sky is called the South Celestial Pole. The stars all revolve around this point during the night. In the northern hemisphere, the Southern Cross is invisible, but there is a bright star called the Pole Star at the North Celestial Pole.)

Using a watch

- Face the sun and point the 12 on the watch dial into the sun.
- The true north line will lie exactly halfway between the 12 and the hour hand.

(This works in the southern hemisphere. In the northern hemisphere, point the hour hand at the sun, and the line halfway between the hour hand and the 12 will point due south.)



Sunrise / Sunset

- As the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, north can be found by observing the sun at dawn and dusk.
- At dawn, stand with your back to the sun and raise your arms shoulder height. Your arms will then be pointing north/south (right = north, left = south)